lived Government. I had drawn the attention of the hon. Railway Minister for according priority to construct this railway line during the last session. Unfortunately, the Government which is much concerned about the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward classes, did not pay attention towards the construction work of Ranchi Korna railway line. Therefore, the hon. Minister of Railways is requested to make a provision in the Railway Budget for Ranchi-Korna railway line and start the construction work in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Ranchi, Lohardaga and Tudi have been included this time.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Please extend it. It was done much earlier. Please extend it.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : The hon. Minister is aware of the situation in Bihar and he is worried about it. It is very good. Think about Uttar Pradesh also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is worried about the whole nation.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I think about you too.

(iv) Need to take up Gauge Conversion work between Kolar and Chikkaballapura in Karnataka

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : Gauge conversion between Yelahanka and Bangarpet is a very long pending demand of the people of Karnataka. We have sent several representations not only to the hon. Minister of Railways but also the hon. Prime Minister. But strangely this gauge conversion work is still pending.

In fact some conversion work from Yelahanka to Chikkaballapura and from Kolar to Bangarpet has started and unless conversion work between Kolar and Chikkaballapura start, the entire project would be of no use. The farmers of Kolar district, particularly, those who want to transport their agricultural products like potato, onion, tomato, fruits and vegetables are put to great difficulty due to inordinate delay in converting this age-old narrow-gauge into broad-gauge between Kolar and Chikkaballapura.

Sir, Kolar is a very backward district. The percentage of unemployed educated youth is also very high. There are no irrigation facilities except a small number of tubewells here and there.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Railways to take up this gauge conversion work between Kolar and Chikkaballapura without any further delay.

(v) Need to set up an Educational Development Bank for Financing Higher Education

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : The cost of higher education, particularly professional courses is increasing constantly. But the Government run institutes such as IITs, IIMs, Medical Colleges charge very nominal tuition fees and thus subsidise the students heavily. There is a need to charge economical fees in these elite institutions, which only admit best students. But the students must be given educational loans as a matter of right, without any security or outside guarantee. Banks must be instructed to devise schemes for such educational loans. Also an Educational Development Bank of India be established as an apex refinancing institution.

(vi) Need to provide financial assistance for opening Residential Schools in Rural Areas of Bihar for SCs and STs.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, at present 70 percent Children of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not able to go to school. There are many difficulties in this regard. I urge upon the Government of India that residential Schools with Government facilities from Class-I to Class-I0 be opened in every block of Bihar and the expenditure of which be borne by the Union Government and a College should also be opened in every district headquarter with the Central assistance. If such arrangements are not made the Children belonging to SCs and STs will not be able to get education and they will not draw the benefit provided by the Union Government and State Government despite the fact that Union Government and State Government launch many Schemes for SCs and STs. Unless education is provided, they will not be benefitted by these Schemes.

(vii) Need for Construction of a Bye-Pass near Mumbra in Thane District on Mumbai-Pune National Highway

*SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Members and hon. Minister for Surface Transport and Environment and Forests towards a burning issue. Mumbai-Pune National Highway passes through Mumbra which is situated in Thane district of Maharashtra. Half-a-kilometre towards east of Mumbra is a creek while half-a-kilometre towards its west is a mountain. Mubra is 40 kms. from Mumbai. There is dense population on either side of the national highway and schools, buildings hospitals, temples, shops are

* Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Marathi.